

# OBITUARY

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## J E WALLACE MD

Dr J E Wallace, formerly consultant chest physician to Chichester, died suddenly on 2 September aged 78.

John Edgar Wallace graduated MB, ChB at the University of Liverpool in 1926. He held appointments in medicine and surgery at the Royal Southern Hospital in Liverpool and spent three years at Leasowe Children's Hospital for the treatment of bone and joint tuberculosis, where he gained experience in tuberculosis and diseases of the chest; while there he wrote a thesis on amyloid disease, for which he was awarded his MD. From 1929 to 1931 he was John Rankin fellow in anatomy and Ridgeway scholar of Liverpool University and demonstrator in anatomy at the medical school; subsequently he joined the staff of High Carley Sanatorium. In 1936 he moved to the Chichester district as assistant tuberculosis officer and later became senior tuberculosis officer to West Sussex County Council and physician superintendent to Aldingbourne Sanatorium. During the war years, in addition, he took charge of the county council's mobile first aid unit, attending the injured at Tangmere and Thorney Island when these airfields were bombed. Later he was seconded by the Ministry of Health to the Epsom and Carshalton districts in Surrey, returning to Chichester in 1946. With the start of the National Health Service he became consultant chest physician to the Chichester group of hospitals, remaining there until his retirement in 1971. He continued to work part time in the group until 1976.

Dr Wallace's sound common sense and wise advice were greatly appreciated by his colleagues. From 1948 he was a member of the group medical advisory committee, serving as chairman from 1956 until 1959 and again in 1963-4. It was generally agreed that during these periods he showed great skill in guiding the committee through the difficult period of unification of the hospitals of the group. He was a founder member and trustee of the post-graduate medical centre.

In 1934 Dr Wallace married Josephine McDonagh and they had one son, Michael, and two grandchildren. Sadly, Josephine died in 1971 after a long illness. In 1973 he married Dr Ruth Pillman, for many years a colleague and friend, and she survives him.—JDW.

## J SMART MD, FRCP

Dr J Smart, formerly a consultant physician at the London Chest, the Connaught, and the Brompton hospitals, died on 22 October aged 73.

Joseph Smart was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and later at St Bartholomew's Hospital, where he qualified MRCS, LRCP in 1933 and held resident appointments. He obtained the MRCP in 1937 and was elected a fellow of the college in 1953. He showed an

early interest in diseases of the chest when he was awarded a Dorothy Temple Cross scholarship and went to Sweden to study adhesion section. Appointed to the consultant staff of the London Chest Hospital just before the war, he was one of the early group of physicians who did their own bronchoscopies and adhesion sections, and he acquired an excellent reputation as a teacher of his junior staff.

Joe's dominant interest was the welfare of the London Chest Hospital. He was appointed to the board of governors of the Hospitals for Diseases of the Chest at its inception in 1948 and remained on it for 26 years until he retired. He was chairman and vice-chairman of the London Chest Hospital Medical committee for 12 years, chaired the academic board at the Institute of Diseases of the Chest, and spent many years on many other subsidiary committees. In 1972 he became dean of the institute at a difficult time in its history, and by the time he retired he had steered it into calmer waters. He was joint editor of the *British Journal of Diseases of the Chest* for many years and was at one time president of the Medical Society of London. Joe was interested in every aspect of the hospital's work and had a great eye for the possible uses of the little space available in a small hospital. He was a great planner, and an expert in squeezing the proverbial quart into a pint pot.

An active member of the Baptist Church, Joe approached this with the same enthusiasm with which he approached all his interests, becoming a deacon of his church at Muswell Hill in 1962 and then in the church in Swanage after he retired there. He was a shining example to us all in the manner of his retirement: he contributed to the hospital's affairs until the day he retired but then disappeared to Dorset to indulge his love of sailing and to take up painting, returning to the hospital only for social and formal occasions.—JRB.

## C G LEWIS MD, FRCS ED

Mr C G Lewis, formerly surgeon superintendent of City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, where he worked for 33 years, died on 31 May aged 88.

Charles Gordon Lewis started his medical career at Birmingham in 1913 and in 1915 went to Flanders as a surgical dresser in the Friends Ambulance Unit and worked in the Ypres Salient. He later went to Russia with another unit to help with a typhus outbreak among the refugees. After two years he was invalided home and spent a further six months in the Birmingham Medical School before being called up as a surgeon probationer, spending the remaining months of the war on a Q ship in the Royal Navy. He graduated MB, BS in 1922 and after a period as a ship's surgeon and a resident post at the Prince of Wales's Hospital, Tottenham, held house appointments at the North Staffs Royal Infirmary. He proceeded MD in 1924 and obtained the FRCS ED in 1929. In 1925 he was appointed

resident medical officer of the Guardians Institution, London Road, Stoke, which contained 1000 mixed beds, and over the next three decades his energy was directed towards improving the facilities there. He added to his consultant staff in various specialties and opened maternity wards, of which there were none in Stoke-on-Trent. He became adept at spinal anaesthesia, was a public vaccinator, and had the unusual experience of admitting 50 patients with smallpox into three large wards in the 1926 epidemic. He was also medical officer to the children's homes at Penkhull.

The immediate postwar period was a busy one with the emergence of the National Health Service; consultants were appointed in all specialties so that by 1958, when he retired, Mr Lewis's dream of a first-class acute hospital had been realised. The staff then comprised 20 resident doctors and 27 consultants, compared with just four medical officers when he first went to the hospital.

Mr Lewis delighted in the personal touch, which allowed him to share the lives of his patients. He always attended the sick nursing staff at City General Hospital, who knew him affectionately as "Pop." He was one of the last of a class of practitioner who has now almost disappeared, for his skills were extensive: with little help he might in one evening perform a laparotomy for intestinal obstruction, follow this with a maternity case of failed forceps and a tracheotomy on a baby with diphtheria, and oversee his medical assistants with acute medical cases of pneumonia, diabetes, or puerperal sepsis all before days of penicillin and sulphur.

Mr Lewis was a former president and captain of Trentham golf club and for many years had a handicap of six. He was happy in his retirement home at Ferndown, Dorset, where his back garden gate opened on to the golf course. In 1925 he married Dorothy Wilson, a theatre sister, who died in 1966. He is survived by his married daughter and his son, who is consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Bridgend General Hospital, Mid Glamorgan.—ACWL.

## N C TANNER MD, FRCS

DWH writes: I should like to contribute a further appreciation to the obituary of Norman Tanner (30 October, p 1280). During his period of service on the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England his duties included that of chairman of the joint committee of the chair in ophthalmology with the Royal Eye Hospital at the time when I was appointed to the chair and for several years after. His kindness, care, and consideration were a great support and encouragement to me. Later, after his retirement, he became a patient of mine and I was encouraged in a different way by his personal courage and determination coupled with a real humility, which made our meetings a pleasure. His surgical contribution is undoubted; and in his death many of us have also lost a valued friend.